

## Safety

### Do you know?

4. Which type of abuse has steadily risen since 1993?
5. What are some of the characteristics of Negligent Treatment?
6. In what period of time must a DCFS Social Worker make face-to-face contact with a child in a referral indicating "imminent harm"?

Answers may be found on page 58 of this report.

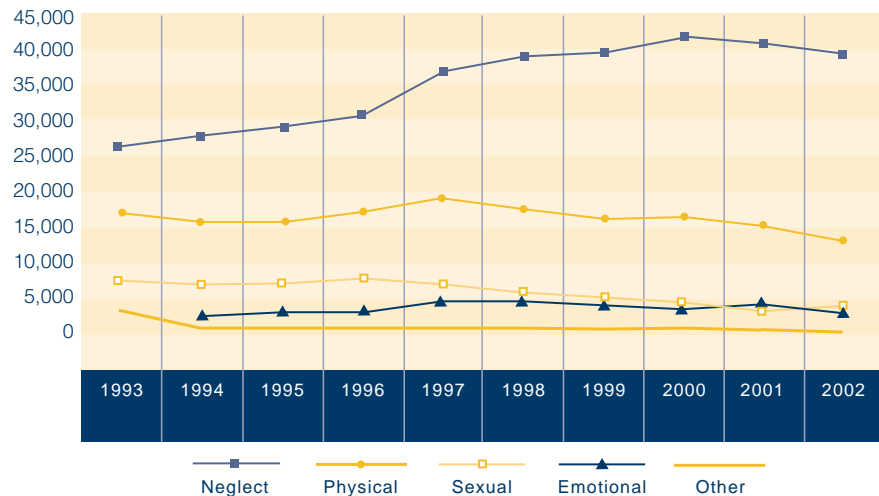
News Advisory, March 2004  
Performance Report, 2003

## Defining Abuse and Neglect Continued

**Negligent Treatment:** Negligent treatment or maltreatment means an act or failure on the part of the child's parent, legal custodian, guardian or caregiver that shows a serious disregard of the consequences to a child of such magnitude that it creates a clear and present danger to the child's health, welfare, and safety. A child does not have to suffer actual damage or physical or emotional harm to be in circumstances which create a clear and present danger to the child's health, welfare and safety. Negligent treatment or maltreatment includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Failure to provide food, shelter, clothing, supervision, or health care necessary for a child's health, welfare and safety;
- (b) Actions, failures to act, or omissions that result in injury to or which create a substantial risk of injury to the physical, emotional, and/or cognitive development of a child;
- (c) The cumulative effects of consistent inaction or behavior by a parent or guardian in providing for the physical, emotional and developmental needs of a child, or the effects of chronic failure on the part of the parent or guardian to perform basic parental functions, obligations, and duties, when the result is to cause injury or create a substantial risk of injury to the physical, emotional, and/or cognitive development of the child.

**Alleged CPS Victims in Accepted Referrals  
by Type of Abuse 1993-2002\***



\* Source: CAMIS-Each victim may be reported for more than one type of abuse or neglect. "Other" includes prenatal neglect, mental injury, exploitation, abandonment and death (prior to 1994, "other" also included emotional abuse.) Based upon calendar year rather than fiscal year calculations.

**Abandonment:** A parent or guardian abandons a child when the parent or guardian is responsible for the care, education or support of a child and:

- (a) Deserts a child with intent to abandon the child;
- (b) Leaves a child without the means or ability to obtain food, water, shelter, hygiene, medical care;
- (c) Forgoes for an extended period of time, parental duties and obligations.